



GTAV NEWS

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Newsletter of the Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc.

April 2010

GTAV Annual Conference 2010

The dates for your diary are Sunday 15th to Tuesday 17th August. The conference will be at Clifton's for two days with a fieldwork day on the Tuesday. Clifton's Training Rooms are located at 440 Collins Street, Melbourne. The conference Theme for 2010 is...*the diversity of urban and rural landscapes*.

The conference will present key note speakers and workshops relevant to this theme. It is planned that there will be a forum related to the National Curriculum and that we will make use of the City of Melbourne with workshops relating to it as a location for camps and fieldwork. Many conference attendees will be able to use public transport to access the city rather than relying on our less sustainable but much loved cars.

The **annual conference dinner** will be held in the city on the Sunday evening. Look out for the conference program, which will arrive in your school **before the end of term**.

Presenters at the Conference

The GTAV Annual Conference has always benefited from the contributions of our most accomplished practising teachers. Presenting a session at conference is excellent personal and professional learning.

The GTAV is still calling for workshop presenters. Each session is of one hour duration on the Sunday and Monday with Tuesday being a day for fieldwork visits. It is suggested that some presenters may wish to use the city location for fieldwork tasters and activities that may be used to introduce students to the CBD. We would like to host a forum on the Sunday aimed at informing teachers about the benefits and pitfalls relating to 'City Camps'.

(I would like to hear from teacher/s from schools which currently run a 'City Camp' who may wish to be a part of the panel for this forum. I would also like to hear from teacher/s who use smart boards in their Geography classrooms who would like to present a workshop eo@gtav.asn.au)

This year's conference venue has 4 computer rooms available so IT rich and GIS based topics will be well resourced and I am sure popular with attendees.

A **Call for Presenters** form is available on our website. **The Final Date for submission of workshop extracts is Friday 30 April.** Presenting has its rewards...The *Victorian Institute of Teaching* has made it a requirement that to maintain registration, teachers must undertake Professional Learning. Teachers are required to be active members of their profession. This includes attendance at conferences and PL sessions run outside your school or may include teachers from a school working with facilitators from outside their workplace.

Annual General Meeting of GTAV

The AGM will be held on Friday 14 May 2010 at Camberwell High School commencing at 6.00pm. Barrie Jones, GTAV's Study Tour Convenor will be the guest speaker.

If you are able to attend please notify the office to ensure appropriate catering. If you are unable to attend please fill in the proxy voting form which was in the last *Interaction* mail out and return it to the office.

GTAV is now on Face book

We are trialling a face book page. If you feel that you do not find out about PL opportunities as quickly as you would like, check out our page. Be the first to know!

Geography Networks

There are a number of networks operating throughout Victoria. They are a fantastic opportunity for you to share ideas and to find help. The network leaders are sent information to pass on to network members. To become a member, contact the relevant leader and they will include you in their network. The leaders are listed on the back of this newsletter and on our website. The contact list has been updated and should now be current.

Vanuatu Study Tour 2010

A special GTAV Study Tour to Vanuatu will be held during the July School Holidays this year. The 11 day tour will be jointly organised by Barrie Jones (GTAV Study Tours Co-ordinator) and Denise Miles (Interaction Joint Editor, who is currently living in Vanuatu). Approximate price for the 11 day tour (including all air fares, accommodation with daily breakfast, various other meals, all sightseeing tours and presentations), will be about \$2500 per person twin share.

Please e-mail Barrie at barriemjones@hotmail.com or call him on his mobile 0406716182, for more details. Places are limited, so please contact Barrie as soon as possible, if you are interested in participating.



Professional Learning

The GTAV program provides opportunities to enhance your Geography teaching and build your love of the subject while at the same time satisfying the *Standards of Professional Practice*.

| Term two 12/4 – 25/6 | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Mon 3 May | <i>Using GTAV resources in the Geography Classroom</i> | GTAV office |
| Wed 5 May | <i>Spatial from Scratch</i> | Coburg SHS |
| Friday 7 May | <i>Basic geospatial skills and knowledge for Geography</i> | Holmesglen |
| Tue 22 June | <i>Applied GIS Beginners Level</i> | Monash Uni |
| Mon 28 June | <i>Applied GIS Intermediate Level</i> | Monash Uni |
| Term three 12/7– 17/8 | | |
| Sun 18 July | <i>Student population lecture</i> | Melbourne University |
| Mon 19 July | <i>Help... How do I teach Geography?</i> | Holmesglen |
| Mon 26 July | <i>Quality teaching ideas for middle years Geography</i> | Holmesglen |
| Tue 3 August | <i>Using GTAV resources in the Geography Classroom</i> | GTAV office |

The year's program is available and updated at www.gtav.asn.au under *Support* and *Professional Development*. Registration forms are mailed to schools and can also be downloaded from the website.

Registration procedure

On receipt of your registration, the GTAV will send a confirmation email. An accurate email address helps this process. If you don't receive a confirmation email, please check with the GTAV office at office@gtav.asn.au. Closer to the date of the event you will also receive details about the day and a relevant map or building access instructions.

Individual Assistance

Contact Terry McMeekin, Education officer, for help with specific requests. This may be individual issues or to help with school based PL sessions. GTAV can...

- Organise professional learning opportunities
- Maintain a library of up to date resources
- Produce quality teaching resources
- Provide opportunities for you to share ideas with your colleagues
- Coordinate regional networks and online forums.

Contact details eo@gtav.asn.au or phone 98248355.



A new resource from Global Education Project, Victoria

CD-ROM: Global Education

Teaching and learning websites

This new resource provides a web-based service via a CD-ROM with direct links to a variety of Global Education websites. The content is organised into topics that reflect global education issues using the five global learning emphases from the Global Perspectives framework.

Topics include: globalisation, maps, tourism, trade, country profiles, cultures, multiculturalism, belief systems, children's rights, education, food security, gender equity, governance, globalisation, microfinance, refugees, rural development, reconciliation, national peace, international peace, climate change, deforestation, desertification, natural hazards, pollution (water and air), population growth, species conservation, urbanisation, water security, Australian organisations and international organisations.

The websites were chosen for inclusion based on:

- being from an authentic source
- Australian relevance for local and regional case studies
- easy and reliable access to materials for teachers and teacher support
- a great range of student activities including higher order thinking
- an engaging style of presentation
- Logical site navigation.

Available free from the Global Education Project at the GTAV office.

National Curriculum

As Geography is in the second round of National Curriculum development, accreditation for the current VCE Geography course has been extended until the end of 2011 and may well be extended beyond this time.

Information about the implementation of the second group of Australian curriculum subjects (Geography, LOTE and The Arts) will be provided later in 2010. The GTAV along with other interested parties has been asked to send representatives to a forum on the Geography curriculum by ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority). The meeting will be in Sydney at the end of April. After this meeting we should have more of an idea about what Geography may look like in the future. Those of you who have looked at ACARA's curriculum for Science and Mathematics would have noticed that there are some content related areas of concern. Hopefully you have already raised your concerns directly on the ACARA web site.

One of our members who had read the science curriculum sent us a summary of what he is concerned about ... *As a geography teacher, the new draft Science curriculum raises some interesting issues for my subject. Many of the topics traditionally studied in geography – and included in teaching objectives in state-based curricula, and in all geography textbooks - will now be studied in Science: Plate tectonics, water use and management and global warming are three key areas. Once these topics transfer over to Science, there will be a number of considerable gaps in the current geography syllabus which will only be filled when the new AC Geography curriculum is released..... Therefore, what geography teachers need is an outline of the topics that will be replacing those that have migrated to science, so that Geography will not be in limbo for a number of years. This will enable teachers to start thinking about and preparing units of work secure in the knowledge that their efforts will not have been wasted...*

We would be pleased to hear your comments as well.

An opportunity to communicate with Nepalese children in a global classroom... Comparing Lifestyles

each year in September I travel to Nepal and spend three months working there in a community centre and in local schools on the outskirts of Kathmandu. The children are keen to learn and I would love to have schools in Victoria become involved in an exchange of ideas. It would benefit both groups.

I will produce some simple questions about topics teachers wish to discuss. My first aim is to teach about recycling and I want to start with a rubbish audit at school or in the home. Other possible topics: food we eat, use of power, transport to school, or anything that interests the children.

The information would be emailed to me. We do have a small computer centre so it is possible that the children could communicate directly. isabel.armer@gmail.com

Study Tour 2010

Registrations are now open for a new Asian Education Foundation study tour tailored specifically for Geography and Environment educators. It will be run from July 4-15 and the destination is Thailand. It is being delivered in partnership with the Chiang Mai based Prem Tinsulanonda Centre for International Education (www.premcenter.org). The tour offers unique insights into how communities in Thailand are meeting the challenge of environmental sustainability for the future.

Check out the tour and other AEF Study Tours on offer at

http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/for_teachers/travel/access_asia_study_tours

VCE Murray-Darling Basin

The length of Australia's Rivers

Geoscience Australia recalculated the length of Australia's major rivers in 2008. The results can be seen on their website at

www.ga.gov.au/education/geoscience-basics/landforms/longest-rivers.jsp. Note that in the table, the Darling River measures 1472 km, but when its major tributaries are taken into account, it measures 2844 km. The Murray River was measured at 2375 km. An article about this was published in *Interaction* in March 2009 (Volume 37, no. 1, p 40).

Interesting Web sites
worldometers

This is a great collection of constantly updating meters which record everything from births and deaths, to cigarette consumption, forest loss, food produced, to email messages sent. These real time statistics are an interesting and informative tool for use in the Geography classroom.

<http://www.worldometers.info/>

Keep up to date with Australia's foreign Aid programs.

For example...18/3/10.... Report from AusAid Australia will provide up to \$1 million in initial emergency humanitarian assistance to help the people of Fiji recover from the devastation and destruction caused by Cyclone Tomas.

The Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs has indicated clearance will be given for the Australian Defence Force to land in Fiji and provide immediate support.

The aircraft will carry supplies such as tarpaulins for shelter, water purification tablets and water containers. Australia will also provide funding to Fiji's National Disaster Management Office to charter transport such as helicopters and boats to deliver much needed relief supplies to remote communities.

To subscribe go to:

<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/subscribe.cfm>.

A study of Natural Disasters could include cyclones in Fiji

An excellent resource for your classroom is the Fiji broadsheet published by the GTAV. The pack contains 15 high quality double sided sheets which include a topographic map, rainfall and land use maps plus lots of other data.

We are offering it at a special price until the end of May. It is now \$40 for members including postage.

Planning a career for Geographers...

There is a shortage of planners in Victoria. To encourage students to think of a career in Planning, RMIT has developed a module to introduce Yr 9-10 students to urban planning. If you would like to trial this piece of curriculum please contact eo@gtav.asn.au.

China's One Child issues!

CNN) -- Some 24 million Chinese men of marrying age will find themselves lacking wives in 2020, partly because of the country's one-child policy. Sex-specific abortions have led to a large male population born since the 1980s (China Daily newspaper). The gender imbalance means that the next decade will see many intergenerational marriages: young men married to women much older than them, a study has said. China's Communist Party implemented the one-child rule three decades ago, amid fears that the country would not be able to feed a skyrocketing population. The policy has prevented about 400 million births, China Daily said.

Couples living in cities are barred from having more than one child, unless neither parent has siblings. In rural areas, the law allows for a second child under certain circumstances. And the guidelines are looser for ethnic minorities with small populations.

Enforcement varies, but usually takes the form of fines to discourage extra births.

The policy has curbed population growth but China has said it will maintain its one-child policy for at least another decade, as 200 million Chinese will enter their child-bearing age during this period.

"After the new birth peak ends, we may adjust the policy if there is a need,"

China's population, which stands at about 1.3 billion, is growing at the rate of 0.6 percent. It is expected to peak around 1.6 billion by 2050, according to the U.S. State Department.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/01/11/china.bride.shortage/>

New Resources:

'Building Global Awareness'. This book contains 50 activities and ideas for teachers of upper primary and Middle school students. This very usable and attractively designed stimulus book is filled with terrific examples of skill development and activities which widen a student's global perspective. It allows students to develop a global view of their world and shows you fun ways to help them to understand their place in it. It was published in 2010 by the Global Education Centre (SA) at a cost of \$29.95. It can be purchased from....

admin@global-education.asn.au

There is a new fieldwork text published by AGTA called the *'Keys to Fieldwork: Essential skills and tools'*, which was released in 2009. Copies can be purchased from MacMillan and a percentage of the sales goes towards the Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA). The book was written by AGTA members and is a great resource for the classroom. For more information on the "Keys to Fieldwork" book go to:

<http://www.agta.asn.au/resources/index.htm>

We think that there is trouble in the MDB!

Yemen made headlines last Christmas as the training ground for the man who attempted to blow up an airplane, but a more immediate concern for the people living in the country is a rapidly dwindling supply of freshwater. Sanaa, Yemen's capital city, home to 2 000 000, people, may become the first large city to run out of water. This is due to the country's booming population, unregulated groundwater withdrawals, subsidised diesel fuel and heavy agricultural use.

"If we continue like this, Sanaa will be a ghost city in 20 years," a water specialist told *Reuters*. A 2009 report says the water table is shrinking two meters per year, wells are being drilled deeper each year to reach the receding water, and some penetrate 800 to 1,000 meters. Fuel for the pumps is subsidised by the government, making drilling easier than it should be. Wells are essentially unregulated, leading to a concern that Sanaa—a city with seven percent annual population growth—will soon be dry.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hRiwhJYeUXY1B3Ma2oCfQVE0G9vA>

Recycling Yellow pages

Did you know that only 2 000 000 of the 20 000 000 Yellow Pages telephone directories produced each year are recycled? Perhaps there are some old ones lying around your Geography office or staffroom!!

Do you also know that it is possible to not get an annual copy of the Yellow Pages? Only 200 people have registered to save the paper and printing.

cont...

One school is putting their sustainability to the test. What is your school doing?

Tour De Trinity

All senior school houses and some junior and senior school classes were involved in an energy related whole school activity. The activity was a unique bike machine (12 Bike) that incorporates the use of human power (cycling) to generate electricity that can be fed back into the main grid. The generation for the whole day was 1.6 kWh. This kilowatt-hour energy will operate a 40-watt light bulb for around 2 full days or a 19" colour television for about eight hours or a personal computer for 5 hours. <http://www.futurespark.com.au/>

Goals of the activity:

- 1. To develop awareness amongst our students of the amount of power they use in their lives*
- 2. Deepen their understanding of energy and power*
- 3. Establish an awareness of the effort required to generate electricity and how easily this energy is used*

Solar Panels

Late in 2009 Trinity Grammar School received a Federal Government grant for sustainability projects within the school. In late September "Solar Panels" were installed in the Senior and Junior campuses: 60 panels (30 Panels each side) total generating 9.9kW. The panels are warranted for 25 years and should still be producing 80% of the current output at that time.

- Energy Produced = 9.9kw x 4hr/day x 365 days/yr = 14.5 MWh/yr. (Based on average Melbourne sunshine in a year).

The energy use and savings of the panels are being tracked showing the electricity produced, CO2 emissions saved and approximate savings to electricity bills for the School.

This was organised by their Environmental Student Group (ECO Group). ***Well done!!***

Interaction 2010

All schools should have received their first issue of Interaction for 2010. The planned themes for later this year are Global Geography and Enhancing Cultural Understanding. The second issue is due before the end of Term 2.

Baby elephants are big news at the moment. Your students may be interested to follow this new threat to wild elephants in Africa.

Two African governments are trying to pry open the worldwide ban on ivory trading -- a decision that could wipe out whole elephant populations and bring these magnificent animals closer to extinction.

Tanzania and Zambia are lobbying the UN for special exemptions from the ban, but this would send a clear signal to the ivory crime syndicates that international protection is weakening and it's open-season on elephants. Another group of African states have countered by calling to extend the trade ban for 20 years.

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/no_more_bloody_ivory/?v1

Which bank? The cow bank!

"We're proud to think that this farm is a model for others. We want them to come and see what we have done here and how a home farm can work." - Ramani, farmer, wife and mother of 3 in Sri Lanka. A farming family in Sri Lanka are finding unexpected benefits from their participation in a permaculture project with World Vision. Ramani and her husband joined the project to make better use of their family land. Now Ramani can work close to home and look after her little boy too. They are now growing salad greens, chillies, tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplant - much more variety than just the sweet potatoes they used to grow. Ramani's family have also been looking after 3 young chickens. They are now busy building a cow shed, ready for the latest stage of the project. Stage 3 sees the start of a "cow bank". Under the terms of the cow bank, Ramani's cow will continue to be the property of the community. She will care for the cow and its new calf, then when the calf is weaned return the cow to another family and keep the calf for herself. http://trans.worldvision.com.au/news/actionnews/viewArticle_enh.asp?articleID=236



Membership for 2010

Have you renewed your membership for 2010? Membership entitles you to Interaction, access to the Orbis library, many resources, advice and cheaper cost for professional learning activities. Please check that your faculty has renewed its membership for the 2010 calendar year. Why not become an individual member? Membership forms are available on the web site.

New Resources in the Orbis Library:

'The River: A Journey through the Murray-Darling Basin' by Chris Hammer takes you on a journey through Australia's heartland, following the rivers of the Murray Darling Basin. He recounts his experiences, impressions and stories of the people he meets along the way. It is a journey which highlights the real people of the river country and it tells their stories with humour and passion. It leaves you with a detailed understanding of the MDB and its various regions. It could certainly be read by Yr 12 students and teachers and is current and accessible. Our library has several copies.

'Living Geography: Exciting Futures for teachers and students', edited by David Mitchell. This text published in 2009 is the 'latest thing' in Geography teaching from the UK. It is full of interesting, if British based, examples of activities and styles of teaching Geography. Each chapter has exemplar material and interesting approaches to teaching the various aspects of living Geography. It's certainly worth having a look at!

'The water dreamers' is an amazing history of our dry continent. It is written by Michael Cathcart and published in 2009. It recounts the way that water has shaped where we live and our attempts to manage water for our use often leaving the rivers in crisis. It has an Australia wide perspective of our changing use of water over time.

A Request...

We are looking for some new resources to add to our web site. If you have some skills tasks or great ideas for using an interactive white board, units of work, fieldwork or prac tasks to share please forward them to eo@gtav.asn.au

GTAV Resources Update –

New Perspectives Supplement for Units 3&4

This supplementary booklet to the *New Perspectives* text book published by the GTAV is now available. It includes data and information on the two mandated topics for Unit 3 and 4 – the Murray-Darling Basin and Human Population.

This is available at a cost of \$24.95

Geospatial Skills Activity Book Level 5



Available from booksellers and the GTAV is the *'Geospatial Skills Activity Book'* for VEL5 Level 5. The activities in this 76-page book complement the geospatial skills being taught in the classroom. Topics include earthquakes, bushfires, Antarctica, national parks and surf lifesaving. The exercises refer to both black and white data and 20 pages of colour data in the centre of the book.

These activities can either be used as additional activities at school or as homework tasks.

This is available at cost of \$14.95

'Geospatial Skills Activity Book' for VEL6 Level 6 is in production, so watch out for it later in the year.

A deal ?? for Government School Teachers


www.government.travel the new online accommodation booking site has been developed exclusively for Government employees. The site is member only and excludes anyone outside of government email domains. The company has negotiated special deals with over 600 hotels in Australia. Register as a new user to receive your password for access to this site. You can become a member by following this link... http://government.travel/user/user_new.aspx

Geography Networks 2010

The teachers listed below have volunteered to be a point of contact for colleagues in 2010.

| Geography Network | Network Leader | School | School phone | Email |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| North Central | Alan Boddy | Bendigo Senior Sec College | 5443 4522 | boddy.alan@bssc.edu.au |
| Berwick | Fiona Tonizzo | Pakenham Sec College | 5941 4133 | tonizzo.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au |
| East Gippsland | Tim Clemens | Gippsland Grammar | 5143 6388 | tim.clemens@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au |
| Geelong, Ballarat | Richard Schomburgk | Ballarat & Clarendon College | 5366 8200 | schombri@bcc.clarendon.vic.edu.au |
| Western District | Paul Walsh | Bainbridge College | 5572 2788 | walsh.paul.f@edumail.vic.gov.au |
| Eastern Metro | Heather Ruckert | Tintern | 9845 7777 | hrucket@tintern.vic.edu.au |
| Horsham | Neil King | Horsham College | 5382 0499 | king.neil.a@edumail.vic.gov.au |
| Inner East | Vanessa Reynolds | Box Hill High School | 9877 1177 | rn@boxhillhs.vic.edu.au |
| Mildura | Rebecca McClure | Irymple Secondary College | 5024 5407 | mccclure.rebecca.a@edumail.vic.gov.au |
| North Eastern Metro | Trish Douglas | Eltham College | 9437 1421 | tdouglas@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au |
| Prahran Bayside | Geoffrey Paterson | Distance Education Centre | 8480 0155 | gpaterso@distance.vic.edu.au |
| Prahan Bayside | Joy Mawbey | Melbourne Girls Grammar School | 9862 9200 | Joy.Mawbey@mggs.vic.edu.au |
| Prahan Bayside | Margaret Bourke | McKinnon Secondary College | 8520 9000 | bou@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au |
| Prahran Bayside | Website http://group.yahoo.com/group/pbgeog | | | |
| Western Suburbs | Vacant position | | | |
| Spatial technologies | Pat Beeson | Teaching GIS | 9870 0852 | pabeeson@bigpond.net.au |

Contact your network leader to be included on their email list.



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